## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 02002 080240Z ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /076 W

-----006461 080331Z /62

R 080221Z SEP 77 FM USLO PEKING TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8647 INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CONFIDENTIAL PEKING 2002

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: MISCELLANEOUS LEADERSHIP NOTES

- 1. ACCORDING TO STORY MAKING THE ROUNDS IN PEKING DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA, PURGED LAST YEAR FOR LINKS WITH THE GANG OF FOUR, HAS RECENTLY COMMITTED SUICIDE. MOST PUPULAR VERSION OF THE STORY HAS IT THAT CHIAO, REALIZING THAT HIS FENCE-STRADDLING HAD ANTAGONIZED ALL FACTIONS, DESPAIRED OF EVER WINNING EVEN PARTIAL REHABILITATION.
- 2. EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS CLAIM THAT PRC LEADERSHIP DECIDED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TO RESTORE PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE (A POSITION LAST HELD BY LIU SHAO-CHI). PARTY ELDER YEH CHIEN-YING WAS TAPPED FOR THIS PRESTIGIOUS BUT EMPTY POST, WITH CHOU EN-LAI'S WIDOW TENG YING-CHAO SELECTED TO FILL THE VACANT POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS STANDING COMMITTEE. IN THIS ROLE TENG YING-CHAO WOULD HAVE RECEIVED FOREIGN AMBASSADORS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES BELOW THE RANK OF CHIEF OF STATE. THIS PLAN FELL THROUGH, HOWEVER, THE EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS CLAIM, OWING TO OBJECTIONS BY YEH CHIEN-YING TO THE KICK UPSTAIRS. THE MILDLY SURPRISING FAILURE TO NAME CONFIDENTIAL

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TENG YING-CHAO TO THE NEW POLITBURO IS CITED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT TENG IS NO LONGER A LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR EITHER POSITION.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT PLACE A GREAT DEAL OF STOCK IN ANY OF THESE STORIES, WHICH SEEM MORE A PRODUCT OF LAST SUMMER PEKING DOLDRUMS THAN OF INSIDE INFORMATION.

	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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